

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include amendments to Figs. 7, 13, 14, and 21 that correct minor typographical errors. In particular, Fig. 7 has been amended to remove reference numeral 284, Figs. 13 and 14 have been amended to include components originally recited in claim 17, and Fig. 21 has been amended to add reference numeral 2100. No new matter is being added by these drawing amendments. These sheets replace the original sheets comprising Figs. 7, 13, 14, and 21.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, and 21-24 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 12, 18, and 21 have been amended as shown on pp. 12-19. Applicant's representative acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 17 has been canceled and independent claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate limitations thereof. In addition, the specification has been amended to cure minor typographical informalities as indicated on p. 2-11. Furthermore, Figs. 7, 13, 14, and 21 have been amended as described at pg. 20 and replacement sheets are provided herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of various references should be withdrawn as these rejections are believed to be moot in light of the allowable subject matter incorporated into independent claim 1. Furthermore, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn in view of the replacement sheets attached herewith and the amendments to the specification. Given these amendments and comments, favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

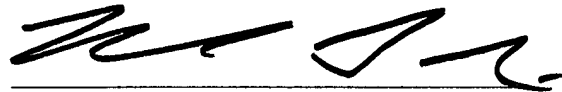
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP326US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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